DEMAND No. XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 52,499 under demand No. XIII General Administration—Legislative Bodies.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : I oppose the demand. My object in opposing the demand is to point out the manner in which the Legislature of this country is being treated. I will be attempting to show that Government have been showing clear slight of the Legislature of this country. As I was submitting just a few minutes back, under ordinary circumstances, the Government should have summoned the Legislative Council if the Government had the least idea to follow precedents much earlier. Moreover the present political atmosphere being so tempestuous, the Government should have called the Council to consult with them and effect speedy measures so that the tempestuous atmosphere may be calmed. Instead of that we are called here now to meet and sit for nearly twenty days together at one stretch. It may be that the Government may offer an explanation that certain Bills were not quite ready. When that comes I will deal with it.

In the matter of answering questions, on the last day I called the attention of the President to the fact that Government are not keen in answering questions and that they are not acting up to the rules relating to the matter. To-day also all the questions that were placed were answered in the course of ten minutes. I brought the fact to the President's attention and the President stated that, as far as possible, the maximum number of questions will be answered. Now, over 200 questions remain to be answered. I am sure that a number of question that are to be answered in this Session would not be answered. Answers should have been given according to the priority in which the questions are given. The Government have no definite plan here also. I submitted that certain questions which have been sent to Government, form the subject matter of enquiries as to how the members of this Legislature got the information. Regarding the Permanent and Temporary garages for the Transport Department I sent a question sufficiently early, but the question was not answered. That matter was delayed and subsequently alterations were made and answers placed before the House. I drew the attention of the Government to this. Subsequently the Government sent a circular to all Departments questioning as to how we members got

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[Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair]

the information. Government could have placed before us the answer in a straight forward manner stating that some error has been detected, instead of making enquiries as to how we got the information.

President: Order, order: the enquiry was directed to show how the clerks and other officers disclosed information to outsiders; how far they were responsible for giving out information to outsiders.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, are we termed outsiders.

President: Not that: so far as the members are concerned they have no right to get information from clerks.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, the... ... ...

President: Order, order; this question has arisen more than once. The Government are taking the members of the Legislature into their confidence. They put questions and if they find that the Departmental Heads are not candid in their answers, the honourable members can interrogate and cross interrogate. But honourable members of this House are not at liberty to get information from subordinates of the staff. If the clerks or other subordinate officers are found out giving information, they will be dismissed and it is for the purpose of proceeding against the clerks that all these enquiries were made.

The House will now adjourn and meet again on Monday.

The House adjourned at 5 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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